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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Czechoslovak Parabellum
25X1A Automatic Rifle

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1. The Parabellum automatic rifle, model 1948, was used at the Doupov (N 51/P 89) SNB Training Center in September 1949. The Parabellum is a Czechoslovakian close-combat arm of 9 mm caliber, having an effective range up to 400 meters. (1)
2. The following technical data were known:

Weight exclusive of butt:	2.58 kilograms
Weight including wooden butt:	3.08 kilograms
Weight including metal butt:	2.93 kilograms
Length including wooden butt:	680 mm
Length including metal butt:	680 mm
Length with metal butt folded:	441 mm
Length of barrel:	285 mm
Length of rifled section of barrel:	268 mm
Length of spare barrel for practice ammunition:	285 mm
Distance between rear sight and front sight:	270 mm
Rate of fire:	600 rounds per minute
Weight of cartridge:	10.7 grams
Caliber:	9 mm (2)
3. The rifle was manufactured with wooden butt and with folding metal butt. (3)
4. The cartridge feeding mechanism was very sensitive to impurities.

Comment:

- (1) The reported arm, referred to as automatic rifle, is the sub-machine gun VZ 48 C Z, on which a report was previously submitted. This arm has been reported under various designations since the end of 1948:

a. Novel submachine gun, manufactured in the Strakonice Armament Plant Ceska Zbrojovka, issued to the Militia, but not yet to the army, in 1948.

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- b. A novel submachine gun with high rate of fire was tested in Milovice in July 1940.
- c. A novel submachine gun was observed with parachute troops in February 1949.
- d. A novel secret Parabellum submachine gun was issued to SHL troops.
- e. A self-loading rifle, model 48, was observed with SHL troops. All mentioned arms are the same submachine gun VZ 48 C Z.
- (2) The reported data on dimensions and weights cannot be tested. A theoretical rate of fire of 600 rounds per minute appears probable.
- (3) The models VZ 48/A CZ with wooden butt and VZ 48/L CZ with folding metal butt are known. Type A was used by infantry units and type L by parachute units. Recent reports stated that, besides SHL units, Czechoslovakian army units were equipped with the submachine gun.

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